

TUESDAY CRASH!

Computers go down during registration
See page 4

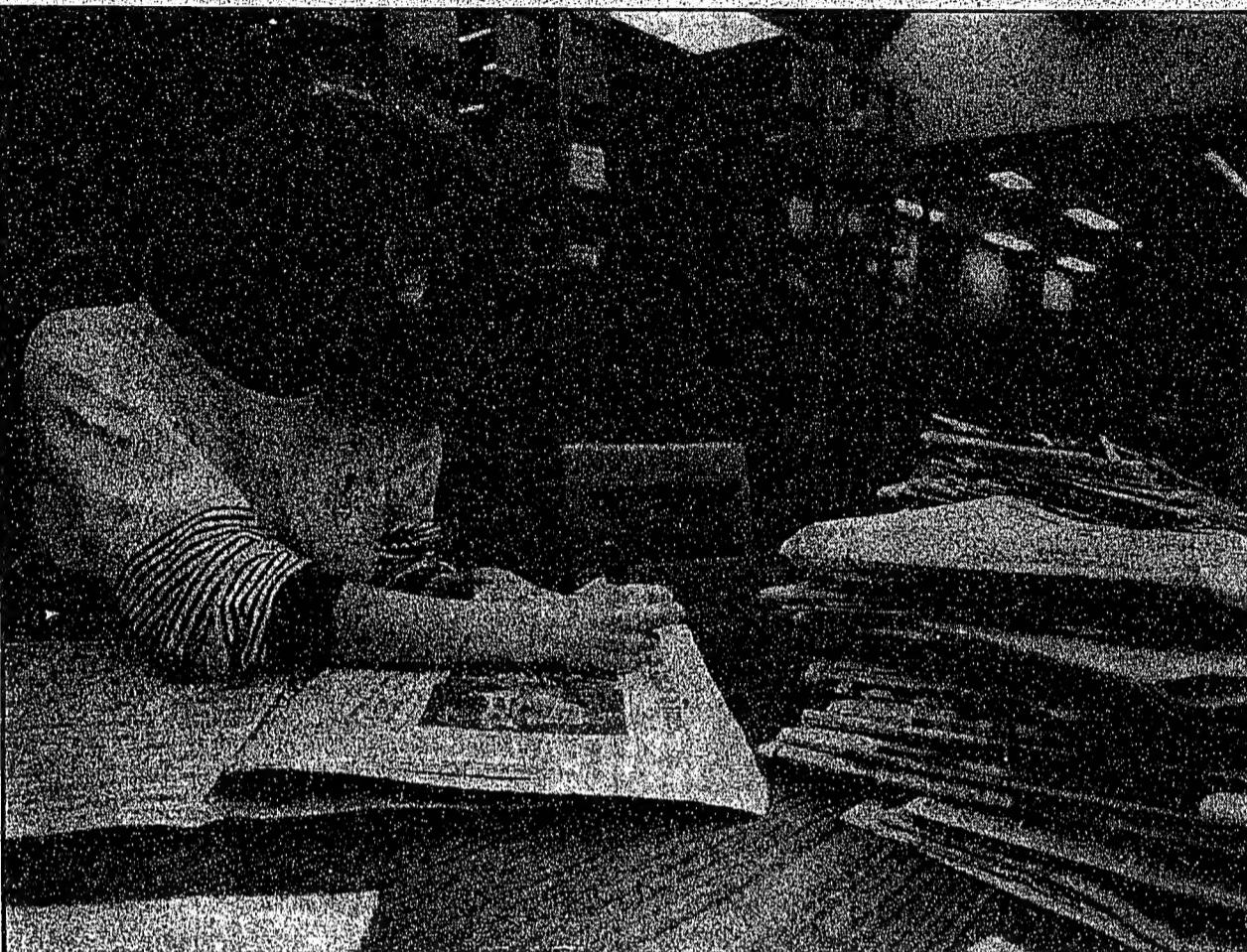
UNO ARCHIVES

THE GATEWAY

November 29, 1988

Volume 88, Number 24

The University of Nebraska at Omaha



Dave Weaver

Now that's dedication . . .

Marcy Stillmunks, a student assistant in the library, was still doing a good day's work at 3:05 p.m. Nov. 23. Most students on campus had left for Thanksgiving break.

Decision to come next month

Four in running for director's post

By DAVID JAHR
Sports Editor

Interim Athletic Director Gary Anderson is losing his job. As of Wednesday, Nov. 16, the 49 candidate field applying for UNO's athletic director was narrowed to just four.

By Jan. 1, a new director is expected to be named, and Anderson will return to the sports information director position.

The four candidates are: Michael R. Ryan, an associate athletic director at New Mexico State University; Allen F. Ackerman, athletic director at Elmhurst College (Ill.); Robert D. MacKenzie, an associate athletic director at Drake

University; and Chris Gage, an assistant athletic director at West Texas State University.

The athletic director's position was made available on Aug. 5. The former director, Bobby Thompson, resigned from the UNO post to take a position at Texas-San Antonio.

In November, each finalist will stay on campus for a two-day visit. The visit is the last step in the screening process before an applicant is recommended to Chancellor Del Weber, who will name the next athletic director.

"I'm going to rely very much on the feedback I get from people," Weber said. "If everything goes according to

See New AD on page 5

See Strike on page 4

Language now bloated

Use, misuse of English concerns Newman

By TIM KALDAHL
News Editor

Edwin Newman spoke in and more importantly on the English language Nov. 17 as part of a UNO lecture series. Newman, a former network anchorman, has written two books on the use and misuse of language.

"So many Americans cannot speak read or write clearly," Newman said at the beginning of the Academy Business Community (ABC) breakfast lecture in the Holiday Inn ballroom, 69th and Grover. "Their lives are narrowed and impoverished."

Despite the grim idea that the United States is losing the literacy of its people, Newman brought laughter and applause from an audience of several

hundred people. Businessmen from various companies made up the bulk of the crowd, but several tables of Air Force officers and UNO faculty, staff and students attended.

Newman complained of the "bloating" of English due to the military, colleges and business.

"Are we better off when a bank teller becomes a customer service specialist?" he asked. "It groans with false dignity."

A favorite example came from the National Park system, Newman said. Bears are no longer killed when they become a hazard to people.

They (bears) are permanently removed from the park's ecosystem," Newman said. The animals are just as dead.

Straight forward English cleans the

mind," he said. The trend has been more words means more prestige. It should be stopped, Newman said.

Newman's career as a journalist began in 1941 working for the Washington Bureau of the International News Service. His break in broadcasting came in 1949 when he started for NBC, reporting from London. Broadcasting took him the world over, from New York to Southeast Asia during the 50s, 60s and 70s. He anchored Today, the Nightly News and Meet the Press over the years. He retired from NBC in 1984, but continues to free-lance stories occasionally.

"Think of the time wasted, the energy and money," he said. Colleges and companies have to train their people in the basics of language so they can deal more effectively in their fields, he said.

"We are a nation with an unusual number of forces that cause division (in language)," he said. Ethnicity, technology and the 1960s idea that "old-fashioned" English was dated all have taken their toll.

Besides addressing language, Newman talked at the breakfast, and later at a press conference, about the role of print and written media, the recent election and the 25th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"The influence of print has declined," Newman said. When he began his career news stories were longer and more accurate, he said. "Breeziness" is the word he used to describe today's newspapers. Tremendous work is being done in print but errors are more present.

See Newman on page 4

Even in Omaha

Geographic ignorance is just a state of mind

Geography is such an amazing source of ignorance in this country.

Take for example, the East Coast — the Mecca of all that is sophisticated and cosmopolitan in the United States. I attended a university one semester predominantly populated by Easterners; Easterners who, for the life of them, could not fathom people existing west of the Mississippi.

Especially confusing for them was how, if you'd ever want to, you could get to a state such as Nebraska, Iowa or Kansas (which, by the way, are all considered by them to be one state: Rural).

One guy, who later became a good friend of mine, asked

Dan Swiatek

Gateway Columnist

me how I planned to travel home for Easter.

"By plane."

"But where will you fly into?"

"Omaha. That's where I'm from."

"A jet can be landed in Omaha?"

"Sure. We have an airport."

"Really? Cool. I thought maybe you had to fly to Chicago then take a bus."

That's the Eastern mentality.

Of course, such a mentality does not exist in Nebraska. Right? Well, no. People who live in Eastern Nebraska seem to share the same type of disposition many individuals living on the East Coast have; namely, civilization as we know it ends five miles outside of Lincoln.

Case in point: Gateway Art Editor Jack Sanford and I made a trip to Kearney State College a week ago for a conference on newspaper design. Now, I personally enjoy any kind of trip, so I was really up for this Kearney fiesta. Everybody else made fun of it.

"Kearney? What the hell will you do for fun in Kearney?"

"Well, Kearney is the home of the third largest college in Nebraska, you know. There's gotta be something to do."

"Yeah, right! Have a great time."

Cutting down on my enthusiasm. That's all it was. And I fell for it. By the start of the trip, my sarcasm regarding Kearney's potential was palpable. I was determined not to have fun.

An interesting thing happened, though . . .

Welcome to Kearney, Nebraska.

In Kearney on a Wednesday night, a thrill seeker has two options for fun: A bar called the Back Lot or the Holiday Inn Lounge. That's all Jack and I could find. We drove up and down Kearney's main drag. We drove around and around Kearney State College until thoughts began to wander.

"Did you spot something, Jack?"

"Yeah, look at all of these weird motel signs. I'd like to publish a book called 'Tacky Motel Signs Across the U.S.'"

"Jack."

"Huh?"

"You're supposed to be looking for fun!"

People who live in Eastern Nebraska seem to share the same type of disposition many individuals living on the East Coast have . . .

We ended up at the Back Lot. The Back Lot is a lounge where, until 8:30 p.m., waitresses substitute as dancing girls. It is also a lounge that considers Huey Lewis tunes to be dance music.

Interestingly, everyone at the Back Lot was having fun. Everyone at the Holiday Inn Lounge was having fun, too.

We were surrounded by people having fun. And when you're surrounded by people having fun, enthusiasm is catchy. You become a native; a native who enjoys listening to a band (wearing Spandex) who's repertoire includes both the Judds and Steppenwolf.

It was rather exotic and both Jack and I had a good time. But nobody believes us.

"How was the Kearney shindig?"

"It was a lot of fun."

"I'll bet it was! Ha-Ha!"

So, there you go. It is possible to be a snob in the state of Nebraska.

Tuition deadlines They just aren't fair

You can't escape them. They're everywhere.

Upon first sight, you might try to ignore them. Act like you don't see them and they might just disappear. But then you realize you're only fooling yourself.

With this rude awakening, the familiar symptoms kick in. The nausea, tension headaches and bounced checks are all due to those silly little signs that announce:

Tuition is due on Dec. 14, 1988.

You're sunk. All the Christmas money you've been harboring in the savings account for presents and fun is going to be sucked into the abyss of Student Accounts.

It's just not fair. At least this was my first reaction when I saw the signs posted and I knew it would be a slim Christmas.

It's always depressing when tuition is due, but timing is very important. Christmas and finals are synonymous and, for most working students, this means a cutback at work so there's more time to study. But, if you do that, then you won't have enough money to pay the confirmation payment.

Now, of course, you could scold yourself and say, "You should have been saving clear back in October." Ah, October. When the huge lump sum for the fall se-

Stacey Meisenbach

Gateway Columnist

mester was due. See what a vicious cycle this can be?

So I decided before I cussed and groaned too much, I had better call the people in charge to make sure they weren't trying to take advantage of us poor, defenseless UNO students.

Student Accounts proved to be quite helpful and the woman who answered seemed anxious to direct me to someone who knew the real reason tuition was due before Christmas. I had the feeling I wasn't the first person to call up with questions about this matter.

Randy Sell, manager of Student Accounts, was the lucky person I talked with. He had a list of reasons ready for the confirmation due date.

He said the problem goes back to the confirmation period for the Spring of '87. They found that if they processed the payments after Christmas they wouldn't have enough time to get courses added if they were needed.

Sell said the confirmation payments serve a big purpose. "We have to find out from the students who really wants those classes," Sell said. "So we have to get the payments in and processed so we can get those classes confirmed or dropped."

So my next question was, "Why so much money? Why not a nice round figure like \$100? Seems to me a hundred bucks is pretty serious."

Naturally, Sell had a reason for that also. The confirmation payment is a case of simple mathematics based on six undergraduate hours and the normal student fees.

I guess if I put \$298.50 down, I'm more liable to stick around for the next semester.

Sell is sympathetic towards the students, especially since he graduated from here in '75. The impact is great no matter where you put the confirmation date, Sell said. You can say that again.

For those cynics out there who know regular registration is Jan. 9, and that seems ample time to process payments — hold on. Sell covered that, too.

According to Sell, "The decision was made to pay before Christmas because we don't want to bounce the date around so we maintain consistency."

Meaning that one year out of four they might have time to process the payments after Christmas and before regular registration. But they want to keep it the same date every year so we can all plan to go broke before Christmas. That's my pessimistic translation.

What Sell said made a lot of sense, but chances are when Dec. 14 rolls around and I'm waiting on tables, cramming for finals, and preparing for Christmas, I won't be so rational.

If it's of any consolation, I don't get invited out much either.



THE GATEWAY

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Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number, although this information will not be published. Letters exceeding two typed pages will be designated commentary and will be considered for publication as an Access column. Requests to withhold names will not be considered.



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MAILBAG

King column 'superficially even-handed'

To the Editor:

Cherie King's essay on abortion rights (Gateway, Nov. 18) was only superficially even-handed. Several unquestioned assumptions crept into the fabric of her argument without first being scrutinized as closely as she examines her opponents' arguments.

For example, King begins the question by using anti-abortion terminology. The pro-choice side is called "pro-abortion." The anti-abortion side is called "pro-life," albeit in quotes. She refers to a pregnant woman as a "mother." And twice she refers to a fetus as a "child." These are not "mere" semantic choices. Language defines the limits of thought. It is impossible to pose as neutral on an issue while your language takes sides.

The pro-choice side is not pro-abortion, and is on record supporting programs aimed at reducing the need for abortion, such as sex education. The anti-abortion side,

Assistants receive rebate

(CPS) — Teaching and research assistants who paid taxes on their tuition waivers this year may be getting some money back from Uncle Sam.

The Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988, passed by Congress in late October and just signed into law by President Reagan, made tax exemptions for part of teaching and research assistants' tuition permanent.

The measure helped correct some of the unintentional side effects of the landmark Tax Reform Act of 1986.

The tax reform law eliminated hundreds of tax loopholes and special benefits. Among them, however, was a tax break for college grad students who work as teaching or research assistants.

Most campuses, of course, "pay" grad students not by writing them checks, but by waiving a portion of their tuition. Under the Tax Reform Act, grad students had to pay taxes on their waivers.

Graduate students at dozens of schools across the country — including Oregon State, Indiana, Ohio State and the universities of Minnesota and Washington — rallied earlier this year to convince Congress to get them out of "tax limbo," as a staffer of the House Ways and Means Committee put it.

The act is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1988, and students who have already paid taxes on their tuition waivers may get a refund. "If they were prudent, they were withholding until this was resolved," the congressional aide said.

weighted down as they are with their support for nuclear weapons, apartheid and terrorist bombings of abortion clinics — not to mention their willingness to have women die of botched illegal abortions — cannot sensibly be termed pro-life. Not unless, as Barbara Ehrenreich put it, you consider life to begin at conception and end at birth.

King gives lip service to the notion that the "magic moment" — in which a fetus becomes a baby — that is, a person — is arbitrary. She is correct in noting that science cannot decide what is and is not a person. But having stated that question, she acts as if it were unanswerable, ignoring the majority of religious people who have determined, through careful study of their own faiths, that personhood begins not at conception but at birth.

On what basis does she discount the majority's views? She doesn't say, but she makes it clear that the welfare of the pregnant woman was irrelevant to her deliberations. And that is an important clue.

Why not, after all, define a sperm cell as a person if the decision is arbitrary? It's no more biologically farfetched than calling a fertilized egg a person. Why not? The answer, which lies at the core of the anti-abortion ideology, is simple: such a definition would mean that men would lose control of their bodies. You see, it's not the welfare of all born persons that's irrelevant to the anti-abortion "logic," just the welfare of women.

The anti-abortion movement comes from an old, old

tradition of patriarchy, which is about denying freedom to women and has nothing at all to do with saving so-called "babies."

If women are to be successfully enslaved by men, they must not be allowed to decide when and whether to bear children. That's why contraception was illegal for so long. Socialist pioneer Margaret Sanger went to jail repeatedly just for sharing birth control information with women. The leaders of the anti-abortion movement today, not surprisingly, are still opposed to contraception.

The abortion debate is a debate about whether to return to the Dark Ages. It's a debate about whether women will be people or slaves. Ignoring the history of opposition to abortion, failing to address the core issue of patriarchy, is intellectual dishonesty.

Don Doumakes

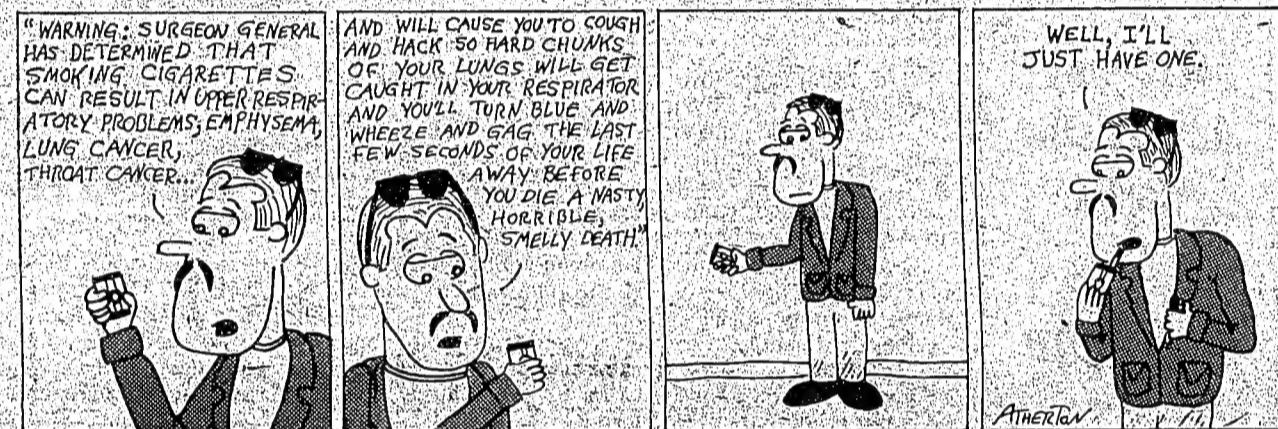
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University of Nebraska at Omaha

Pre-registration smoother, except for last-day crash

By AMY BUCKINGHAM
Staff Reporter

The long lines that are usually associated with registration have been eliminated by UNO's registration office. Almost.

UNO Registrar William Gerbracht said of the 9,056 early registrants only those who registered on Friday had any real problems.

"Aside from Friday, everything went very smoothly. The computer system crashed and delayed everyone about one- and one-half hours."

"It also takes students a little bit longer on the last day because of all of the closed classes," he said.

Some students avoided Friday's lines and took a rain check. Gerbracht said because of the computer problems they could not register all of the students before 4 p.m. when workers had to go home.

"So we added another day and gave rain checks to those who wanted them."

Business Major Larry Hamilton waited in line for the second time on Friday for two hours before he got to the door. Hamilton had gone to his scheduled registration time on Wednesday, only to discover that he had a balance with Student Accounts and

could not register for the only class he will be taking next semester.

"They wouldn't register me when I was here before and now my class is closed," he said. All but three of the English Composition 115 classes were full.

But what about all of those students registering in January? Is it fair to them that all of these classes are closed?

"We know that closed classes are always a problem for those registering at the beginning of the semester," Gerbracht said. "Hopefully, the deans will look at the number of closed classes and offer more. We usually have 350 to 400 students who fail to make the confirmation payment. So then they have that many more openings."

"This year's early registration is the largest we've ever had," he said. "Early registration is good for everyone. It is good for students, especially financial aid recipients because they have access to their money faster. It is good for the University. It helps with planning classes that students need. It also helps to spread the workload out to where the employees can get things done quicker and more efficiently. All in all, it helps."

Strike from page 1

"I'm willing to sit down and try to work something out anytime they are," DeWitt said.

"They are doing the work on the Vinton Street bridge with unqualified people. I'm afraid someone might get hurt," he said. The bridge work will be done at night, he said, and claimed many of the workers are not properly trained to do the dangerous high climbing work necessary.

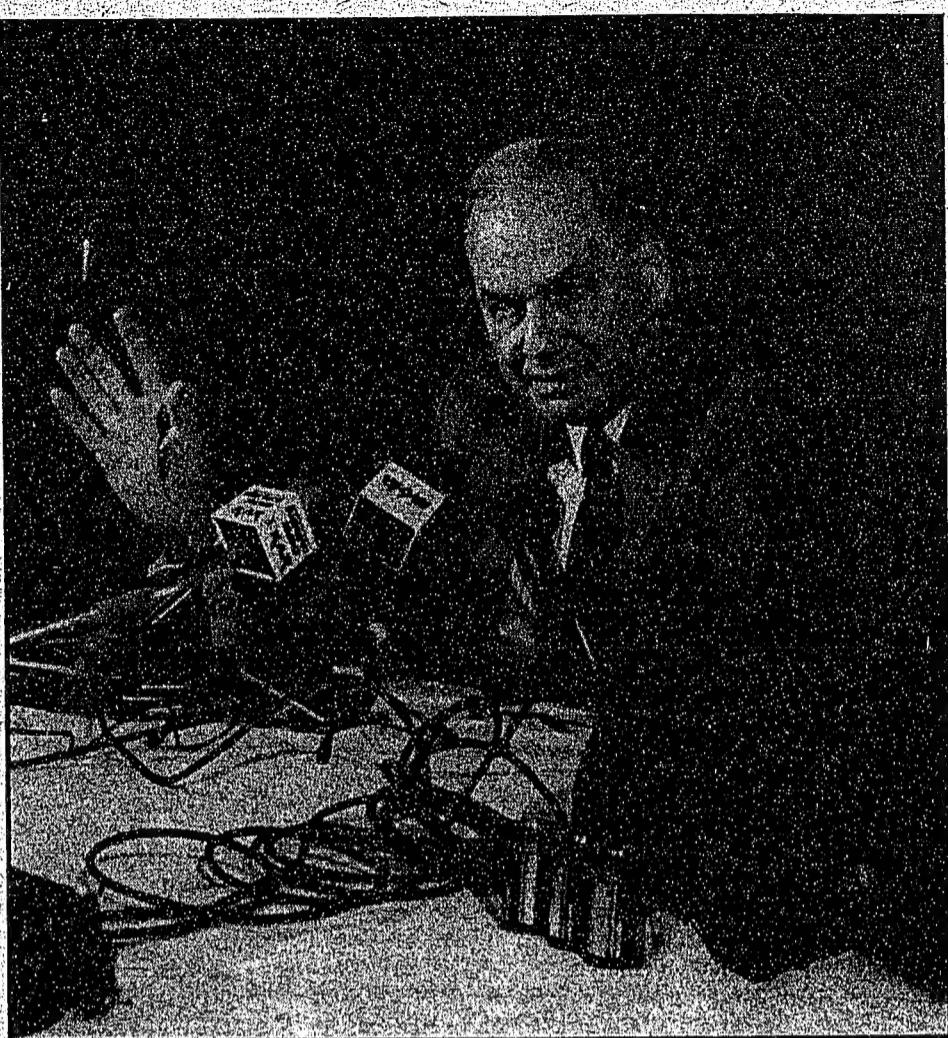
DeWitt said he does not think the company would deal with the union now even if the union lowered its offer to the earlier proposed \$9 offer.

"Plain and simple, they are trying to get rid of unions. Kiewit is doing the same to other unions," he said.

"One guy worked for Kiewit for 33 years loyally. Now he is out on the street," he said.

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— Dave Weaver

Edwin Newman speaks to local reporters after the ABC breakfast.

Newman from page 1

"We see mistakes that would not have been made 30 years ago," Newman said. TV and television journalists are a different breed, altogether.

"People in TV news are public personalities," he said. "And to some extent they are merchants of charm."

Charm was a large part of this year's presidential campaign, too, he said. Staged events for the press by the candidates replaced issues to an extent, he said.

"This year's campaign was not handled well," he said.

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SPORTS

Lady Mavs get bid to NCAA Regionals

By KRIS FREDENBURG
Staff Reporter

UNO earned a bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Regional Volleyball Tournament following a second place finish in the North Central Conference tournament Nov. 18-19.

UNO finished at 2-1, defeating the University of North Dakota and St. Cloud State. North Dakota State handed the Mavs their only loss in the championship match.

The Mavs faced North Dakota in first round action, giving them a 15-6 first-game win. But UNO came back strong, shutting North Dakota down 15-10, 15-6, 15-10 to end the match in four.

Ruth Evans recorded 11 kills and seven block assists for the match. Amy Gradoville added 10 kills.

UNO's second win came against St. Cloud. The Lady Huskies forced UNO to a five-set match, stealing two sets from the Mavs before losing 2-3.

UNO had five players in double digits for kills, including Evans who raked in 37 for a new school record. The previous record for most kills in one match was held by Allie Nuzum (1986) with 32.

"The combination of Ruth Evans, Pam Largen, Brenda Baumann and Amy Gradoville made for a fine attack," Uhler said.

In the same match, Largen also set a new record with 74 set assists, breaking the previous record of 70, held by Angie Oswald, in 1985 and Darla Melcher in 1986.

New AD from page one

plan, we'll have a decision in early December."

During the finalists' stay on campus, each is on a strict itinerary meeting with coaches, people in the athletic department, the screening, athletic and executive committees and with the Maverick Club.

Annually, the UNO athletic director has \$1.4 million as a budget to work with. But, his salary is about \$45,000 a year, according to Anderson.

Anderson said it has been a difficult process to get to four finalists. The screening committee has spent up to six hours on reviewing resumes. Anderson said he has spent nearly 12 hours calling applicant's references.

"I think it's (the process) moving along nicely," Anderson said. "I thought it was a well qualified field of 49."

Defensively, Evans tallied eight block assists and Gradoville added nine digs in the match.

Uhler said the Mavs entered the tournament with a lot of confidence. "We went in knowing the competition would be very tough," she said.

"Both teams (North Dakota and St. Cloud) were extremely on. It was a dog fight to the end," Uhler said.

The Mavs met North Dakota State for the fourth time this season in the NCC finals. UNO fell to the Dakota team in three sets, losing 6-15, 6-15, 10-15.

Despite the low statistics, Uhler said that UNO executed very well against North Dakota State.

"We made mistakes; they made fewer," she said.

The loss left UNO at 22-13 in season standings and 8-2 in the NCC.

Four Lady Mavs achieved all-tournament honors. Evans, Baumann and Gradoville made the first team while Nancy Liebentritt made the second team.

UNO will play East Texas State in the first round of the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament, Dec. 3. Twenty teams including UNO will be competing for one of the final eight spots.

"It's possible we could be one of the final eight," Uhler said.



— Dave Weaver

UNO Coach Karen Uhler takes the Lady Mavs into the NCAA Division II Regional tournament on Dec. 3.

UNO comes out of Rockies ahead 2-1

BY MARK GREGORY
Staff Reporter

The UNO Lady Mav basketball team opened the 1988 season by winning two of three games in Colorado over the holiday weekend.

UNO dropped the season opener 81-62, to University of Northern Colorado, Wednesday night.

On Friday night, the Lady Mavs had four players score in double figures, and took advantage of 22 Metropolitan State turnovers en route to a 92-68 victory in Denver.

Senior Jill Dau led the Mav attack with 16 points, Kathy Van Diepen added 14 and Julie Johnston had 13. Laura Larson scored 11 and pulled down seven rebounds.

Head Coach Cherri Mankenberg said the team's per-

formance was better than in the opening game.

"We really played much more aggressive both on offense and defense and executed more which made the difference," Mankenberg said.

Regis College took the Lady Mavs into overtime Saturday night, but UNO outscored Regis 14-7 in the extra period to take an 84-77 win.

Again Dau led the 2-1 Mavs in scoring with 23 points and Johnston finished with 16.

Larson added 11 points, as did Wendy Millard, who also handed out five assists and grabbed nine rebounds.

"We kept our poise in getting the win and both teams played extremely well," Mankenberg said.

Up next for the Lady Mavs is crosstown rival Creighton University Wednesday night. The 5:15 p.m. game will be at the Omaha Civic Center.

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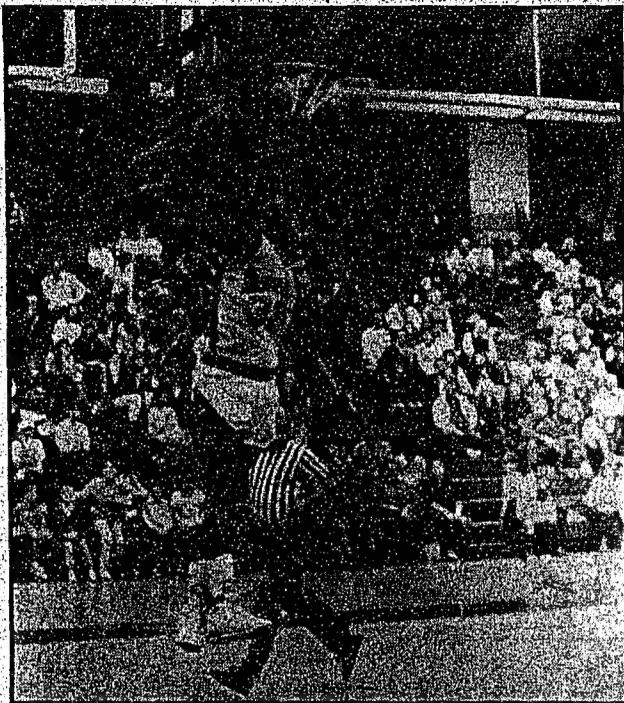
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Sports Close Up: Cagers



UNO Maverick basketball team begins

By DAVID JAHR
Sports Editor

The UNO Maverick basketball team opened the 1988-89 season with a 1-1 record.

Friday night, Nov. 18, in front of 1,400, the Mavs grounded the upset hopes of Bellevue College in a 91-76 drubbing.

UNO Coach Bob Hanson was pleased with his team's effort but now sees areas in need of improvement.

"We played unselfish, passing the ball very well," Hanson said. "But we saw some things we have to work on like help defense and rebounding."

The Bruins stayed close to UNO behind Evan Wineglass's 20 points and nine rebounds. Derrick Helms, a guard averaging more than 24-points per game was stunted by UNO's defense.

UNO Coach Bob Hanson said he used his defensive depth to slow Helms down who shot 23 times hitting only eight.

"We forced him (Helms) to hurry a lot of his shots," Hanson said.

Sophomore Thor Palamore led the Mav offensive production hitting 11 of 21 attempted shots and three free

throws for the game high honors with 26 points.

"He's (Palamore) got a lot of potential, but he still needs to work on defense," Hanson said about his guard who has led UNO in scoring every outing this year including the alumni game.

Even though the Mavs won the game, they struggled in the rebound war against a smaller squad.

"In rebounding, quickness can be just as good as height," Hanson said.

Other scoring leaders for UNO was Bryan Muellner who shot down 17, junior Dan Olson with 12 and freshman Mike Harner from Gas City, Ind. handed out 10 assists and scored 10 points in his collegiate debut.

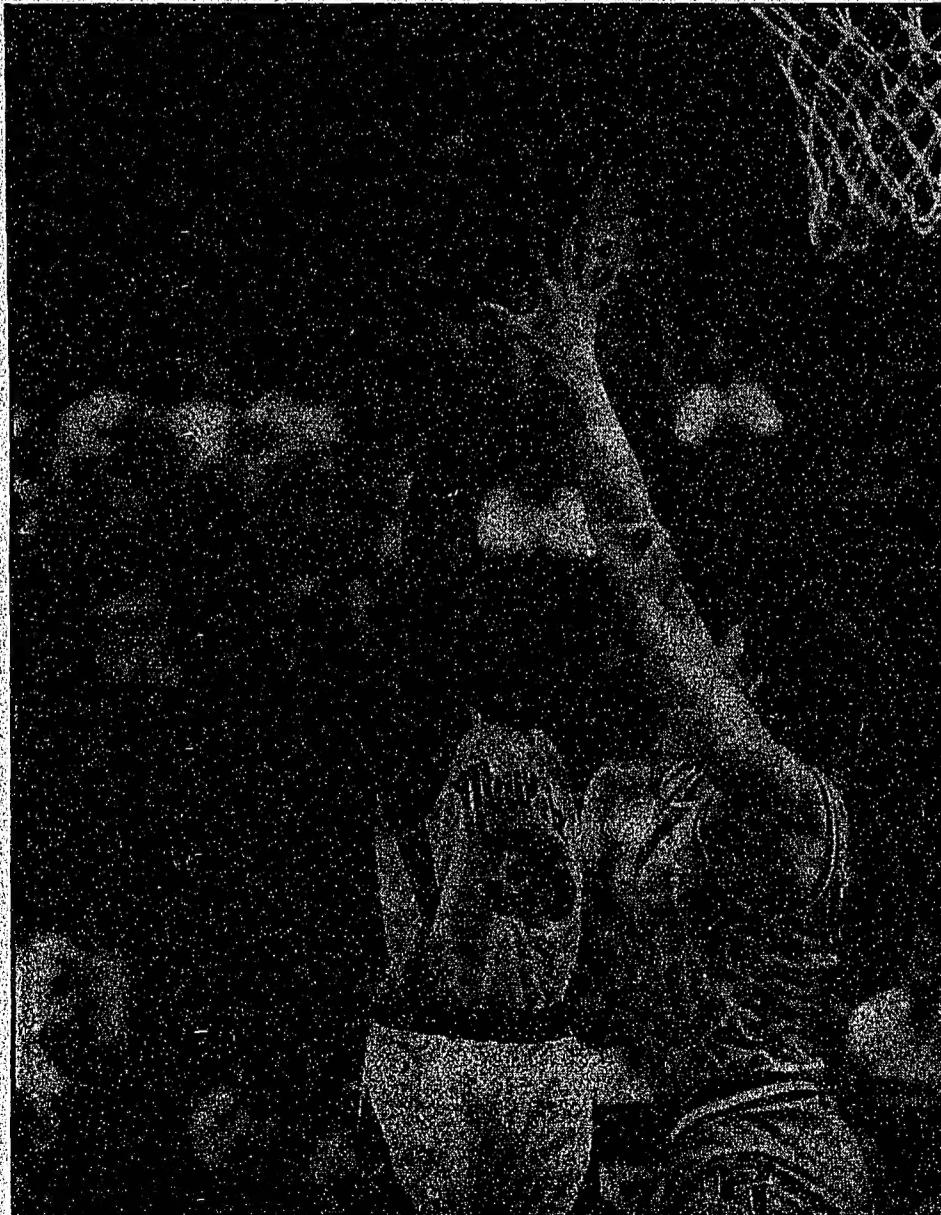
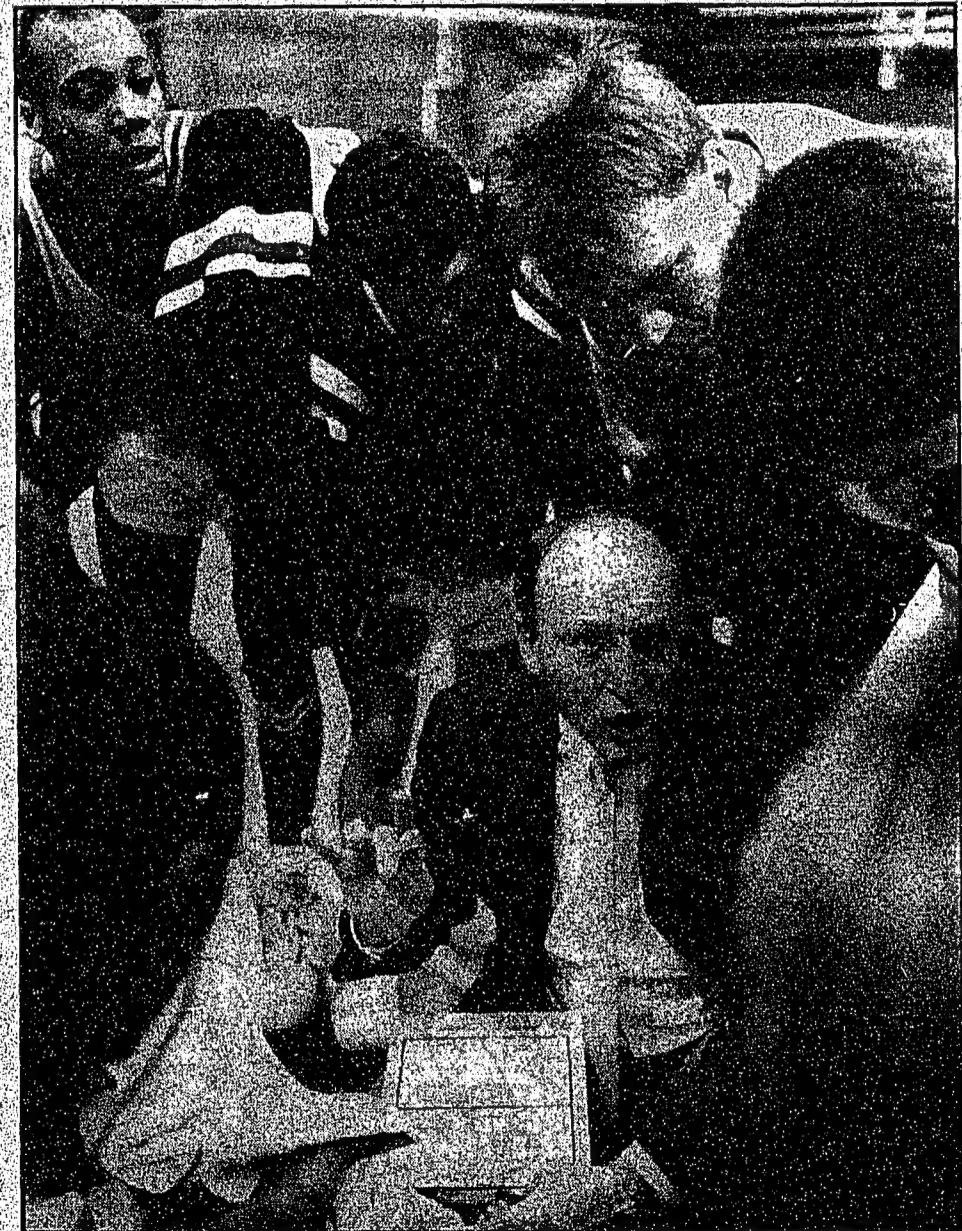
Last Tuesday night, the Mavs ventured into Loper country and came out with a mark in the loss column, 81-73.

Kearney State used a four-minute scoring spurt of 14 points to UNO's 4 late in the second half overcoming a 36-31 half time deficit.

The Mavs could have made an eight-point lead greater but missed easy shots and were fatigued according to Hanson.

"I think we got tired a bit giving us a lack of concentration," Hanson said.

Lopers Todd Johnson and Tray Zimmerman were also



bash Bellevue in opener

season by breaking even, record at 1-1

factors that propelled Kearney State. A Zimmerman dunk ignited the crowd and brought the Lopers within two.

Johnson took over from there, scoring eight points straight late in the second half, giving him a game high 25. Johnson had a near perfect game missing just one shot making him 11-12 from the field and 3-3 from the charity stripe and grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Mavs had four players scoring in double figures with Palamore and Tim Adamek leading with 18 points each. Forward Dan Olson added 15 and Harner scored 10.

Hanson said he was pleased with Olson's play, who also snatched nine rebounds against Kearney State.

"Olson had a good game, he hit the boards and gave us good penetration from the perimeter," Hanson said.

But Hanson said it was the Lopers' guard penetration that hurt UNO's defense. Guards Albert Maxey and Sam Somerhalder both hit 13 points.

Playing in Kearney is never easy, but Hanson said the facility is a good one and the crowd enthusiasm is good preparation for the North Central Conference competition.

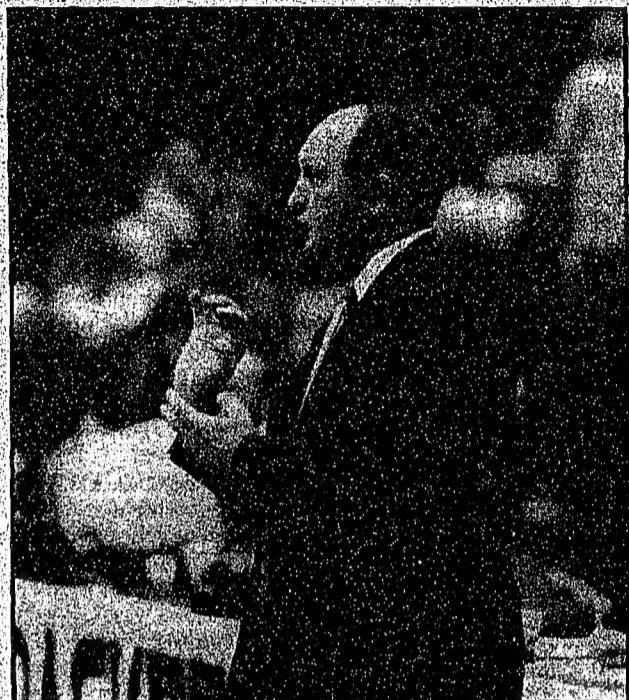
"It was good experience for the players, playing a good team with good players," Hanson said. "It will be valuable for us later on the road in conference play."

UNO meets Wayne State College Saturday night at 8:05

p.m. at the Field House.

The Wildcats return Mike MacNamara a forward who has started every game in his four year career at Wayne Center Marques Wilson return this season after recovering from a knee ailment that kept him out of action last year.

**Photos and layout
by
DAVE WEAVER**



Facing page: Top left, Sophomore Thor Palamore gets a break away dunk during the victory over Bellevue College Friday night, Nov. 18.

Left Center, UNO Maverettes Teresa Lampe (left) and Michele Bishop help with the crowd support in the Bellevue College game.

Bottom Left, Maverick Thor Palamore shoots over a Bellevue defender for two of his game high 26 points.

Top Right, UNO Coach Bob Hanson gives instruction to his players helping them to a 91-76 win.

Bottom Right, Thor Palamore sets the Maverick offense as Kearney State's Albert Maxey defends.

This page, above, Maverick Earnest Farley goes high for a jump shot in the Bellevue victory.

Top Right, UNO Coach Bob Hanson leads the Maverick basketball attack through the 1988-89 season.

Right Center, Terry Forsberg, the UNO sports announcer finishes calling the Bellevue game.

Bottom Right, Daniel Archie Jr. enjoys the Mav attack while concentrating on his popcorn.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hey Verm! Bill and Ben are back for holidays

And now for this year's Christmas (and other) movies.

SCROOGED

Bill Murray emerges from the movie limbo he has been in for the past couple of years with his new Christmas movie, "Scrooged." Based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" (surprise), Murray plays Frank Cross, a career-driven TV executive who sees Christmas only in terms of ratings that it can bring the network.

Cross takes a sweet live Christmas special planned for the network, and creates an ad campaign that makes the show seem more important than the second coming.

His callous, profit-motivated style of producing the show alienates his former girlfriend Claire Phillips (Karen Allen). His meanness is best exhibited when he fires Eliot Loudermilk (Bobcat Goldthwait), and times the efficiency of kicking him out of the building (43 seconds!).

Then Cross experiences the typical ghosts of Christmas, included in any Scrooge-style movie. The movie exhibits its brilliance and originality in the ghosts, which include a wild-man cabbie (David Johansen) and a psychotic Glinda the Good Witch (Carol Kane). The end of the movie has the traditional Christmas speech from Cross, but Murray gives it a surprising genuineness.

"Scrooged" marks the triumphant return of Bill Murray to the silver screen. The entire cast makes a hilarious view of Christmas, from a slightly off-center view. Don't wait for Christmas to see it.



Former Saturday Night Live member Bill Murray, right, takes a night cab ride with former New York Dolls lead singer David Johansen in the new motion picture "Scrooged."

ERNEST SAVES CHRISTMAS

Jim Varney brings the Robert's Dairy hawker back to the screen for his second movie. Ernest P. Worrell is back, now as a taxi driver hooked on Christmas.

The story revolves around the fact that Santa Claus is not a single person, but more of an office to be held. The current Santa Claus has come to the United States to find



his replacement (a recently out-of-work children's actor). Ernest picks him up in his cab, and is shocked to discover that Santa has left his bag in his cab!

Ernest and his friend Harmony (a runaway girl who jumped in his cab after stiffing a restaurant bill) catch up with Santa, only to find that the next Santa won't take the job because he has a movie deal in the works. The group then goes through a lot of adventures to get the

See Christmas on page 11

For Bill Murray, a four-year absence from acting is like 'being on a bad drunk'

By LISA STANKUS
Staff Reporter

NEW YORK — Lumbering around the suites of The United Nations Plaza Hotel, actor Bill Murray was true to form of a beer-guzzling Chicagoan set loose among the Gucci floor tiles of a five-star hotel.

After suggesting a round of Bloody Mary's, he dropped himself into a chair and started talking about his new movie "Scrooged" and his re-entry to cinema after a four-year absence.

"It was like being on a bad drunk. I can't remember what happened," Murray said. "It was like a lost weekend that lasted for three or four years. But you know, I do like to think that I was recharging my batteries."

In reality, it was his wife who brought him out of his self-titled "lost weekend." Murray admitted that he had been lurking around the house too long and needed an outlet, and along came the script for "Scrooged."

The writers of the script, original Saturday Night Live

writers Mitch Glazer and Michael O'Donoghue, claimed to have written the script with Murray in mind. But a later interview with the pair revealed that it was merely an off-beat homage to the actor.

"We were looking for the biggest, most marketable star to exploit," Glazer said, "and we knew it was Billy."

Murray said he wasn't fooled by the false flattery, however, and claimed that it was the subject matter that drew him to the script.

"It was the chance to do this kind of satire in an appropriate setting," the actor said. "Take the structure of Scrooge and the power of the original story and add to that a satirical look at the materialization of Christmas and it makes the movie really a social comedy."

In "Scrooged," Murray plays Frank Cross, the youngest network president in television history, and a man

See Murray on page 12

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Garrett brings KVNO into the 80s with 'Ion Jazz'

By BRAD THIEL
Staff Reporter

The "Guru of New Age Music" is at it again. This time at UNO's campus-based radio station KVNO.

Disc Jockey Tom Garrett has brought the station into this decade, with a new program called "Ion Jazz" updating the previous mix of fusion and mainstream jazz with a mixture of "light jazz" and "new age" music forms, with Garrett serving as volunteer music director.

"I don't know what new age means," Garrett said. "It's not jazz. New age is modern, contemporary, instrumental music. It's a catch all phrase."

Garrett insisted that KVNO has not undergone a format change. Instead, he said the change has been updated.

"We've moved KVNO out of the 50s and 60s and into the 80s," he said.

Considering this is a new sound to the area, the "music mix" has probably updated as much as it's going to, Garrett said. He called public response to the new direction strong. Demographically, he said listeners range from the ages 25 to 54 with a concentration of the audience being in their late 30s and early 40s.

"Mainly, it's the baby boomers," Garrett said. "I'm really surprised at how many students have called and said it's great music to study to. And a station like this should play an integral part with the students."

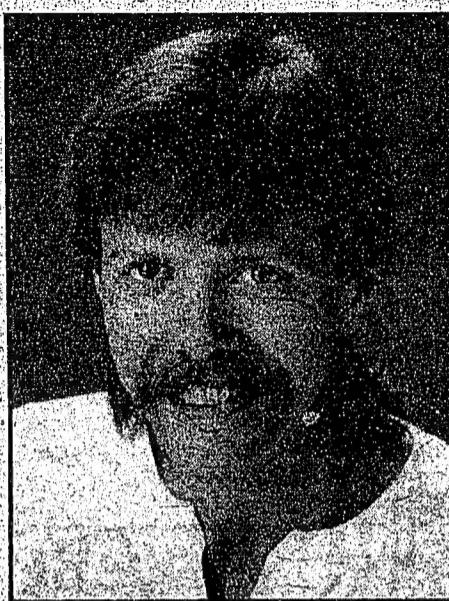
For Garrett, programming music at KVNO is a sidelight. He also works full time as director of national radio promotion at Visual Musik, an Omaha-based record company. He said he came to Omaha this summer to help Visual promote "Earth City Expressway," a recording by Carol Davis, and ended up staying. When Garrett became a permanent member of the Visual Musik staff, he said he decided to get involved in the community.

"So I became a volunteer for KVNO," Garrett said. "I'm trying to upgrade the station because I'm someone who wants to listen to the station."

Garrett introduced this type of music in Oklahoma, and was the first to cross over from public to commercial radio. Early programming garnered an unheard of 25 share, the highest rating in the country. Translated, that means for every four radios on in that particular broadcast area, one was tuned to Garrett's.

"Ion Jazz" is scheduled for syndication in January. The program will be taped in Omaha and played back across the country, notably in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and KVNO as well. Garrett will continue to do live programming on KVNO every Sunday night as well as during fund raising time which is this week and again in February.

Garrett, who is not a salaried employee of KVNO, first spoke with station manager Peter Marsh about airing "Ion Jazz" as a different feature of the station. When the



Garrett

show first hit the airwaves Garrett said the initial response was incredible.

"First, the phones started lighting up, and then the letters started pouring in, and we went from Tuesdays and Thursdays to six days a week," he said.

Garrett has received pressure that working at both KVNO and Visual Musik has created a conflict of interests, the argument being that the record company releases the type of music that is programmed on KVNO. Garrett disagrees and seems to have national support to

back him up.

"My work at visual Musik is national," Garrett contended. "What I do at KVNO is volunteer."

Visual Musik, he said, has released only three titles to date. He is not hesitant to add, however, that Visual's latest release, *Wind Angels* by Neil Davis is on the Adult Alternative charts nationwide.

"If anything, I've been favoring American Grammaphone," Garrett said. American Grammaphone, also an Omaha-based record company, is one of Visual's chief competitors known primarily for music termed as "Fresh Aire."

"As far as donating time and knowledge to the community, I don't see a conflict of interests," Garrett said. "I'm here for the listener. I'm a radio person and I always have been."

"If the situation was where I was receiving a lot of money from KVNO and this were a city of 2 million people, then it would be different," he said. "I'm certainly not going to risk my reputation."

Garrett said he was optimistic about Omaha's music scene. "This area has a great future if they just keep plugging away at a national level," he said. He cited Visual Musik and American Grammaphone as examples, but added that even Omaha's rock scene looks potentially bright. Garrett had one more argument for "Ion Jazz."

"You know, I've had more than one inquiring call from local commercial stations asking, 'would I be interested in moving stations?' But I'm not into radio that much anymore."

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Music steals 'Robber Bridegroom'

Try something a little different this holiday season. See a play. Better yet, see a musical. Better still, see a comedy-musical. There is a good one playing now at the Firehouse Dinner Theater, *The Robber Bridegroom*.

It's not your ordinary musical. The lively beat mixes pop with country western, square dance style, and adds a dash of classical. If the music doesn't keep your foot tapping, then the excellent vocal talent will.

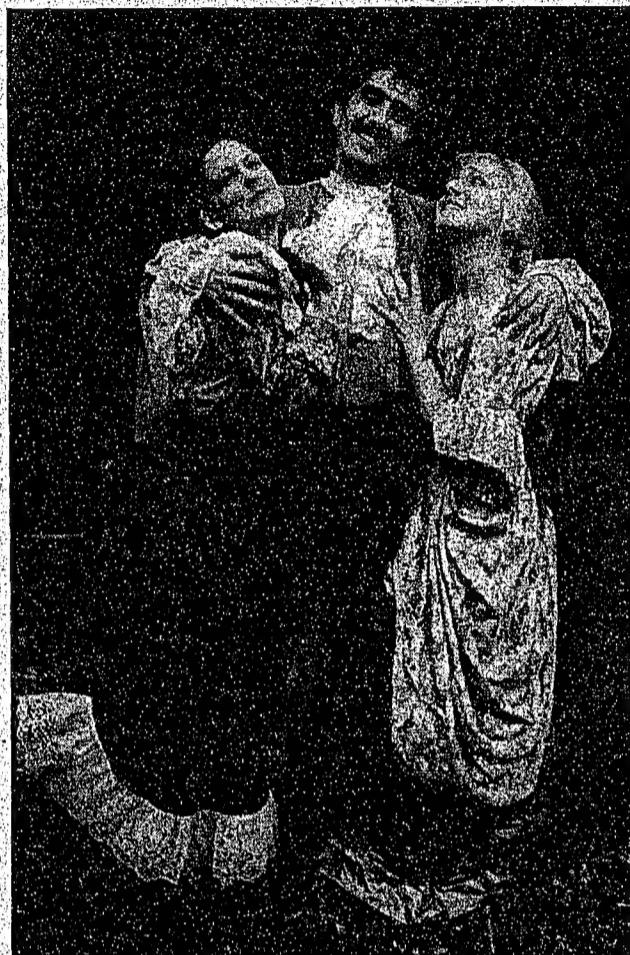
The clear, strong voice of J. Patrick Ryan heads my list for excellent vocals. He portrays the lead character, Jamie Lockhart, just as strongly. What would a leading man in a musical be without a leading lady? Bridget J. Wiley is Rosamund, the spoiled little rich girl who sings sweetly of romance. Her voice rings clear.

Obviously, the cast is made up of more than just these two characters, but a bit of explanation about the play's plot is necessary before I tell you more.

The Robber Bridegroom is the story of a legend set in the back hills of the South. Jamie leads a double life, that

scene stage or hand them to the character who needs them. But this is handled extremely well; I found it fascinating and not distracting.

See Robber on page 11



Bitches, Bridegrooms, Brats are an integral part of the Firehouse Theater production of "The Robber Bridegroom." Starring in leading roles (from left) is Kate McCalley as the bitchy Salome, J. Patrick Ryan as the bridegroom and Bridget J. Wiley as Rosamund, a spoiled brat.

REVIEW

of an attractive gentleman and a berry-stained thief who lurks in the woods. As the gentleman, he wants to wed the daughter of a wealthy planter. But as the thief, he falls in love with a girl he robs in the woods. The two girls are one-in-the-same, Rosamund.

The tale is told mostly through verse as is expected in a musical. While the leading roles of Jamie and Rosamund tell the gist of the story, supporting roles fill out the play.

Jerry Longe is the wealthy planter. I like the solid characterization Longe adds to this character. I wasn't overly taken by his voice, but the planter certainly is believable.

The planter's wife, Salome, is a bitch, plain and simple. Kate McCalley has the cackle and the wicked look needed for this role. As Salome tries to dispose of Rosamund in numerous ways, she sings of her wishes. But she doesn't have a clear voice. She tries too hard to keep her southern cackle and the audience misses out on some of the words in her songs.

The remainder of the 12-member cast are usually on stage throughout the performance. Their voices join the leads and some have solo efforts which are carried off well. Most of the time they move props around the one-

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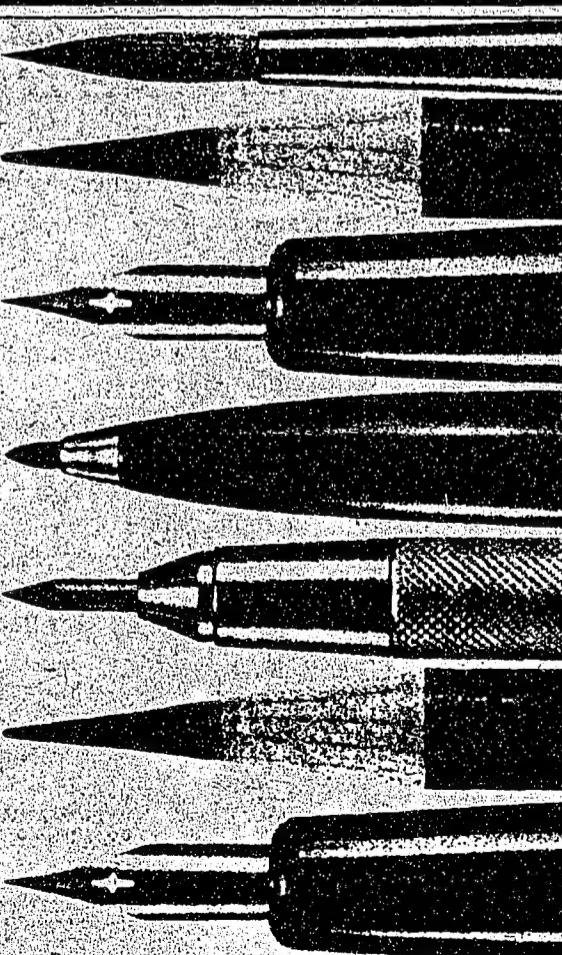
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Christmas from page 8

new Santa his suit and sleigh in time for Christmas. As long as Ernest is in the movie, it is an amusing film (yes, the secret is out: Ernest makes me laugh). Unfortunately, he's not in the film about half the time. Without Ernest, the movie wallows in Christmas sentimentality. If you like Ernest, or are a terminal Christmas junkie, this movie could be worth the ticket price. Otherwise, don't bother.

WITHOUT A CLUE

Another in a long line of Sherlock Holmes film where Holmes takes Victorian London's most baffling cases and solves the mystery, then explaining everything to Watson as being "elementary," right? Wrong.

"Without a Clue" is a light-hearted spoof of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic detective stories in which Dr. Wat-



Actor Jim Varney portrays the popular product pushing character Ernest P. Worrell for the movie "Ernest Saves Christmas."

son (Ben Kingsley) is the brains behind the pair. Early in his career, he hired a drunkard actor (Michael Caine) to play the master detective. Watson then solves the cases, tells Holmes what he has discovered, then lets Holmes announce the deductions.

Eventually, the pair must face the dreaded Professor Moriarity, who has an ingenious counterfeiting plan in the works. In the course of the adventure, Watson appears to be shot and killed by the evil professor. Holmes must then use his own detective skills (such as they are) to find Moriarity and avenge Watson.

"Without a Clue" works simply because of the sheer talent of Ben Kingsley and Michael Caine. Caine does a wonderful job of playing the hard-partying actor who disguises his nature and plays the reserves genius. Kingsley, however, almost steals the show as the brilliant crime-fighter who must subordinate his glory to a ruffian such as Holmes. The story is very average, but these two actors could probably make almost any script work. The humor is subtle and very entertaining.

Overall, "Without a Clue" is an amusing, slightly demented look at the Holmes mythos. But the talents of Kingsley and Caine are worth the ticket price alone.

Robber from page 10

The well-orchestrated play is directed by Marjane Sullivan who returns to the Firehouse after a long absence. She has gained national attention as an actress, choreographer and director. Her expertise shows clearly as she ties this play together in a great performance.

As for the musical numbers, they are performed well. I especially liked the dreamy song performed by the company, "Deeper In The Woods." A square dance number, "Once Upon the Natchez Trace," opened the performance and set my toe tapping.

The musicians carried their part off without a hitch. Playing a fine-tuned fiddle is Jill Billings. Jim Boggess on piano is musical director and queued the banjo, guitar and bass players in the right key.

This is a fun performance that runs through the holidays. Cost for students is only \$10 and is a fine way to spend your hard earned cash.

— VANAY KIRK

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COLLEGE LIFE

Condoms come in school colors

(CPS) — It's the final touch for the well-dressed college student: condoms in school colors.

Students at most schools will be able to get them soon, says Nicholas Fogel, Jr., president of College Condoms, the San Diego firm that's selling the devices to selected campuses in California, Arizona, Florida, Iowa and Kansas, "if the market is there."

The condoms are sold in packets of six for a suggested retail price of \$2.99. "At USC, the packets are three red and three yellow. At the University of California, it's three blue and three yellow. For schools with three colors, it's two, two and two," Fogel said.

Red, yellow, dark and light blue, black, green and pink

The school colors, Fogel said, "have relieved the stigma of buying a condom. (Students) don't feel like they're really buying condoms. They can joke about it."

condoms now are available, but students soon will be able to buy them in brown, emerald, white, "every color," Fogel said.

The inspiration for the product came when Fogel attended a basketball game with an alum of the University of North Carolina. The friend wore Tar Heel sportswear, prompting Fogel to tease that he probably also wore a Tar Heel condom.

The idea stayed with Fogel. His first consignment of 14,000 packets went on sale four months ago. A second batch of 240,000 boxes is almost ready for the marketplace.

While some campus stores carry the product and some choose not too, Fogel says he's had "100 percent acceptance" from all the campuses he's contacted.

The school colors, Fogel said, "have relieved the stigma of buying a condom. (Students) don't feel like they're really buying condoms. They can joke about it."

So far, at least one outlet reports sales of the condoms are slow.

Mort Spiiegel, manager of Campus Drug near Arizona State University, said, "People have to become aware that it is here. We've sold a couple, though, I think it will catch on."

Fogel said typical reactions are like those of two doctors he contacted. One wanted to buy several packets to give as presents at his class reunion. The second doctor said, "Those are great. I can use them as stocking stuffers."

Murray from page 8

who also hates Christmas and plans to exploit the holidays for every rating point he can get.

"I wouldn't call it sentimental. Jesus, that word, sentimental," he said. "It grates on the back of my neck. I would call it sincere though."

When asked about the death of his friend and fellow actor John Belushi, Murray's mood changed from sarcastic to sullen.

"I think that we're all given one life, and it's up to us to decide how to wind our clocks, fast or slow," he said. "I will say this, if John had found a decent script, he'd be alive today." Murray claims a strong relationship with the remainder of the original cast members, saying that he didn't need to see them all the time. He did mention a party at Laraine Newman's that brought the originals together, and told of playing deejay with a stack of 45s, and carrying Gilda Radner around saying, "kiss her, kiss her, kiss her, goodbye!"

Growing up one of nine children, Murray recalled some of his own Christmases past.

"I remember one in particular, when my entire family and all their kids came and stayed at my apartment in New York," he said. "There was wall-to-wall bodies everywhere, but no one wanted to stay in a hotel. It looked like a Mafia mattress hideout, but it was good."

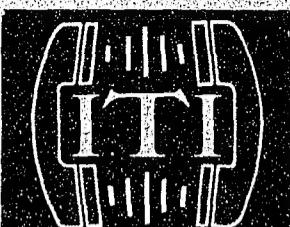
Even though he has been in New York for several years, Murray said he still misses his native Chicago.

"Yeah, I miss Chicago," he said. "I especially miss the bars in Chicago. These bars in New York are different."

He then rolls his eyes and grabs for his drink, reflecting on places he frequented when he lived in Chicago. One of these was The Billy Goat, a restaurant which inspired the popular "Cheeseburger, Cheeseburger" sketch from the old Saturday Night Live television show.

"Oh, and I miss the burgers at the Billy Goat," Murray said.

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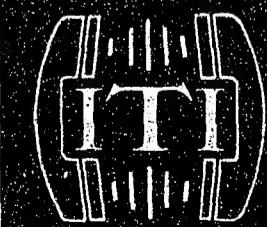
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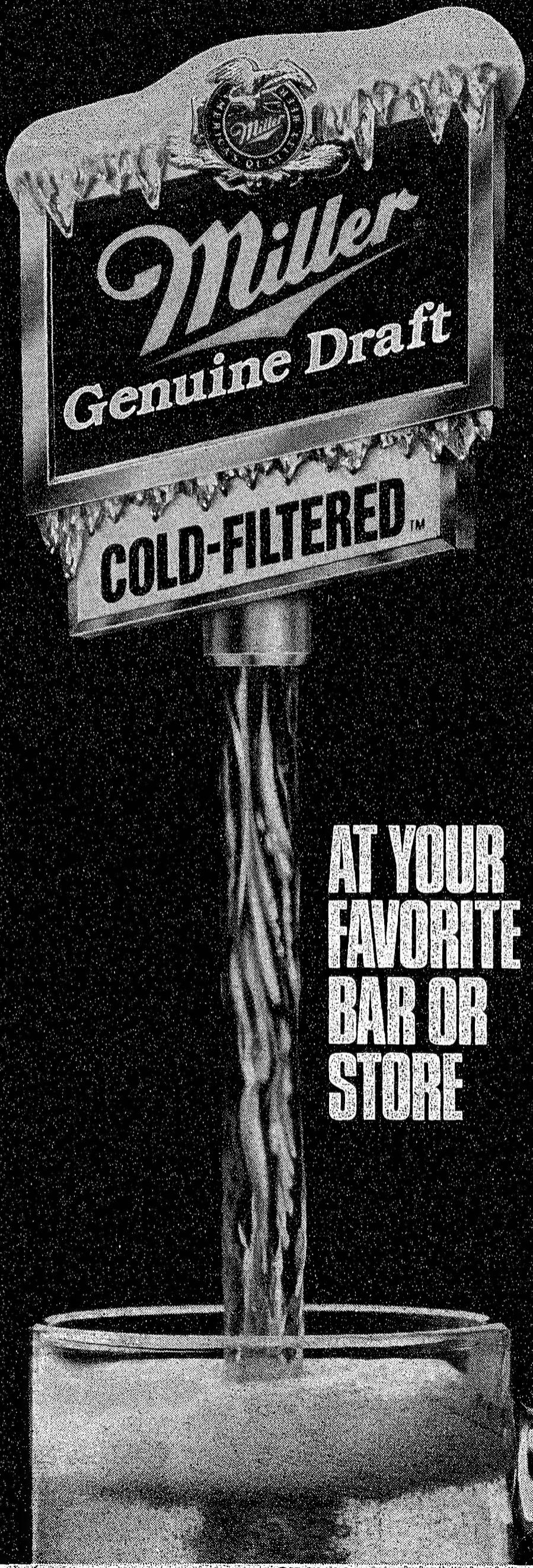
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